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ABSTRACT

This volume, the result of 2 years of work, is an index to 24 volumes on Montessori theory and practice. The books were read and analyzed a minimum of six times. Sixteen of the volumes are authored by Maria Montessori. (DR)

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MONTESSORI INDEX

(THIRD EDITION)

by

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SR. M. EDNA ORTMANN, S.C.C.

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INTRODUCTION

A few years ago when we began re-reading some of Montessori's books for the purpose of learning what she stated on a variety of subjects pertinent to early learning, we became poignantly aware of a serious road-block to further research: practically none of her writings were indexed.

An Index is the key which unlocks, and makes readily available to all who will search, everything which an author has written on any subject. An Index to all that an author has written makes it easy to check cross references, to trace the development of an author's ideas, to note changes in her thinking and theory as her experience became more extensive.

Maria Montessori has been generally ignored by most American writers in the field of child development and early learning. Without doubt, one of the reasons for developmental psychologists lack of acquaintance with what she has written on the role of movement in learning or the value of programmed learning with built-in control of error in developing self-confidence, is a lack of easy reference to what she has said and where she says it.

With the publication of Index to Montessori writers, researchers, teachers--all interested in child development and pre-school education will have ready access to a wealth of insights into the child and how he learns. Index to Montessori provides a key which can open hundreds of doors in the far-too-long-ignored mansion of Montessori.

Maria Montessori was ever pressed for time. Her publishers were short of funds. Her followers could not wait to have what she had written indexed before it was set in print. Now that pre-school education is at the fore-front of current concerns and Montessori is being re-examined, the need for an Index to her ideas, postulates and principles commands prime attention.

The present volume is the result of two years of work on the part of a research team of three Montessori teachers under our direction. Twenty-four volumes on Montessori theory and practice were read and analyzed a minimum of six times by the team, categorizing Montessori's ideas, insights, comments. Sixteen of these volumes are authored by Maria Montessori herself.

To Montessori teachers this Index will be as valuable as their Handbook, and in many instances of even greater help. To pre-school teachers the Index should prove a boon, enabling them to locate with ease Montessori's suggestions for developing a child;s sense of order, initiative, independence, self-confidence, etc. Critics of Montessori will be surprised to find how much Montessori has written on fantasy and on cultivating the child's imagination. Psychologists and early learning theorists will discover how many of the current hypotheses growing out of the findings of recent research tend to underscore many of Montessori's insights which critics have here-to-fore labeled "dogma without the support of research".

In brief, the Index to Montessori provides a path of easy access for re-examining Montessori theory in the light of modern research on the early education of the child.

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